Assam to a grinding halt besides causing depression and inertia in the minds of the upcoming unemployed youth.

The authorities, generally, find many alibis like inaccessibility, difficult terrain, lack of communication facilities, the problem of insurgency, etc. Added to this is the general ignorance of the people about the various development schemes. Then the picture is not complete.

The ignorance of the general public about the concept of Lead Bank Scheme, which has been assigned a key and pivotal role in revolutionising rural and agricultural development in the country, has been such an instance.

Under the Lead Bank Scheme formulated by the Reserve Bank of India, each district of the country has been brought under a major commercial bank of the country. That particular bank in the particular district is known as the Lead Bank, which is entrusted with the responsibility of providing integrated banking facilities, with the main thrust on rural and agricultural development.

Initially, it was a matter of great prestige for any bank to be identified as the Lead Bank. With the passage of time, the initial euphoria has evaporated. Moreover, with the initiation of banking sector reforms recommended by the Narasimham Committee, the lead bank responsibility is now being seen as an unwanted burden by many banks.

I would, therefore, request the Government to identify the malady and provide the necessary remedial measures to cure these ills; the sooner the better.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHVI V. NARAYANASAMY): Now, the House is adjourned for one hour. The remaining Special Mentions would be taken up after the Bills.

The House then adjourned for lunch at thirty-two minutes past one of the clock.

The House reassembled after Lunch at thirtyfive minutes past two of the clock, THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE) in the Chair.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL) 1996-97 (March, 1997)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table, a statement (in English and Hindi) showing the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) 1996-97 (March, 1997).

(Placed in Library, *See* No, LT 1547/87)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Now, we take up further discussion on the Statutory Resolution seeking disapproval of the Special Court (Trial of Offences Relating to Transactions in Securities) Amendment Ordinance, 1997 (No. 6 of 1997) promulgated by the President on the 16th January, 1997 and the Special Court (Trial of Offences Relating to Transactions in Securities) Amendment Bill, 1997. Shri Triloki Nath Chaturvedi.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION SEEKING DISAPPROVAL OF THE SPECIAL COURT (TRIAL OF OFFENCES RELATING TO TRANSACTIONS IN SECURITIES) AMENDMENT ORDINANCE, 1997 AND THE SPECIAL COURT (TRIAL OF OFFENCES RELATING TO TRANSACTIONS IN SECURITIES) AMENDMENT BILL, 1997

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI (Uttar Pradesh): Madam, the whole country knows and the House is also well aware under what circumstances this particular Act had come into being. This was in the wake of what is known as the securities scam and the two Houses of Parliament were compelled to appoint a Joint Parliamentary Committee.